

The Evening World

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THE POLICE AND THE PROBLEM.

OF THE police piddle it may be fairly said the more it is stirred the muddier it gets. We have now got it so foul no one can see bottom. Some folks in despair wish it drained off and a new order established. One of the despairing ones wishes a military system. He says: "We have tried civil administration of the police for years and it has utterly broken down." He adds: "The City of New York, with its vast wealth, puts the enforcement of the law, the command of 12,000 men, in the hands of a civil appointee of the Mayor, who, emerging from his business or profession, is suddenly called upon to exercise and display the qualities of the commander of an army."

Rightly considered, the last of these statements accounts for the first. Police administration breaks down not because it is civil, but because it lacks the right qualifications in the directing power. The Russians have a proverb: "Every man needs a Czar in his head." But he need not be a military Czar, nor need the man be subject to military rule.

The fruitful source of graft and corruption is the unwise treatment of certain vices as crimes when they are no more than nuisances. Supporters of these pay the police to get the immunity they are allowed by public sentiment. A foolish law can never be wisely enforced. Even military rule cannot do it.

THE HONOR OF THE POST-OFFICE.

AMONG the methods suggested by the congressional committee for dealing with the so-called "Money Trust" is a refusal of the use of the mails to stock exchanges "unless they incorporate under State laws and submit to Federal regulation."

Incorporation is good and Federal regulation is good, and there are doubtless many good ways of imposing them upon stock exchanges by legislation. But it most assuredly should not be done by depriving them of the use of the mails.

Censorship of mails in this country has already been carried too far. Yet year by year, here a little and there a little, it is being extended upon one pretense or another. Sometimes the extension is by law, sometimes it is by order of the Postmaster-General; sometimes by presumption of local postmasters.

All of it is wrong. The privacy of the mails should be guarded as sacredly as the freedom of the press, the habeas corpus act, or trial by jury. When a citizen's letters can be opened, or the use of the mails denied him by executive caprice, we have a censorship that is none the less despotic because petty and puritanical.

GIVING BLOOD FOR MONEY.

SAYS Vice-President Marshall: "I am in favor of spending every dollar of American money to protect every American life, but I am not in favor of shedding one drop of American blood to protect an American dollar."

This is a platform with which it would be easy to find fault. It will not stand continuous strain like the older saying, "Millions for defense, but not a cent for tribute." There are times when we must fight for our money. But for all its weakness in general it is a sterling good platform to stand on and to build on in these days when high finance, cosmopolitan finance at that, is trying to force us to send our youth to Mexico or to Central America to draw chestnuts out of the fire for clever financiers.

British experience teaches some lessons in this respect that are worth our study. Many a home in the three kingdoms was robbed of the blood of its best and dearest to protect the gold gamblers of the Rand. We can well afford to keep out of that kind of dollar diplomacy. There is no cause at present for cementing cosmopolitan business structures with American blood.

SOUVENIR SEEKING AT WASHINGTON.

WHAT a satire is pressed upon American morals and manners in the action of the manager of the Senate restaurant at the Capitol in Washington in preparing cheap knives and forks and table service generally in preparation for the coming of visitors to the inaugural ceremonies.

Americans like souvenirs. They have no objection to taking spoons or napkins. They have been known to cut pieces out of curtains or gold cords and to break bits from statuary. They will carry off cups and vases. They have taken charred embers from the ghastly heaps where Lynch law has burned a victim.

So the patriotic crowds that throng the beautiful Capitol will have just ardor enough to yearn to carry something away when they go. They cannot take the dome. So the new tin spoons will be welcome, and we may be sure they will not be left on the hands of the far-seeing and well-providing manager.

Letters From the People

An Agent's Par.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
Can any reader who has been a house-to-house agent for some household article tell me if a better living can be made that way than can be earned by working steadily for \$18 a week, ten hours a day, six days in the week? Also any suggestions as to such an occupation?
E. W.

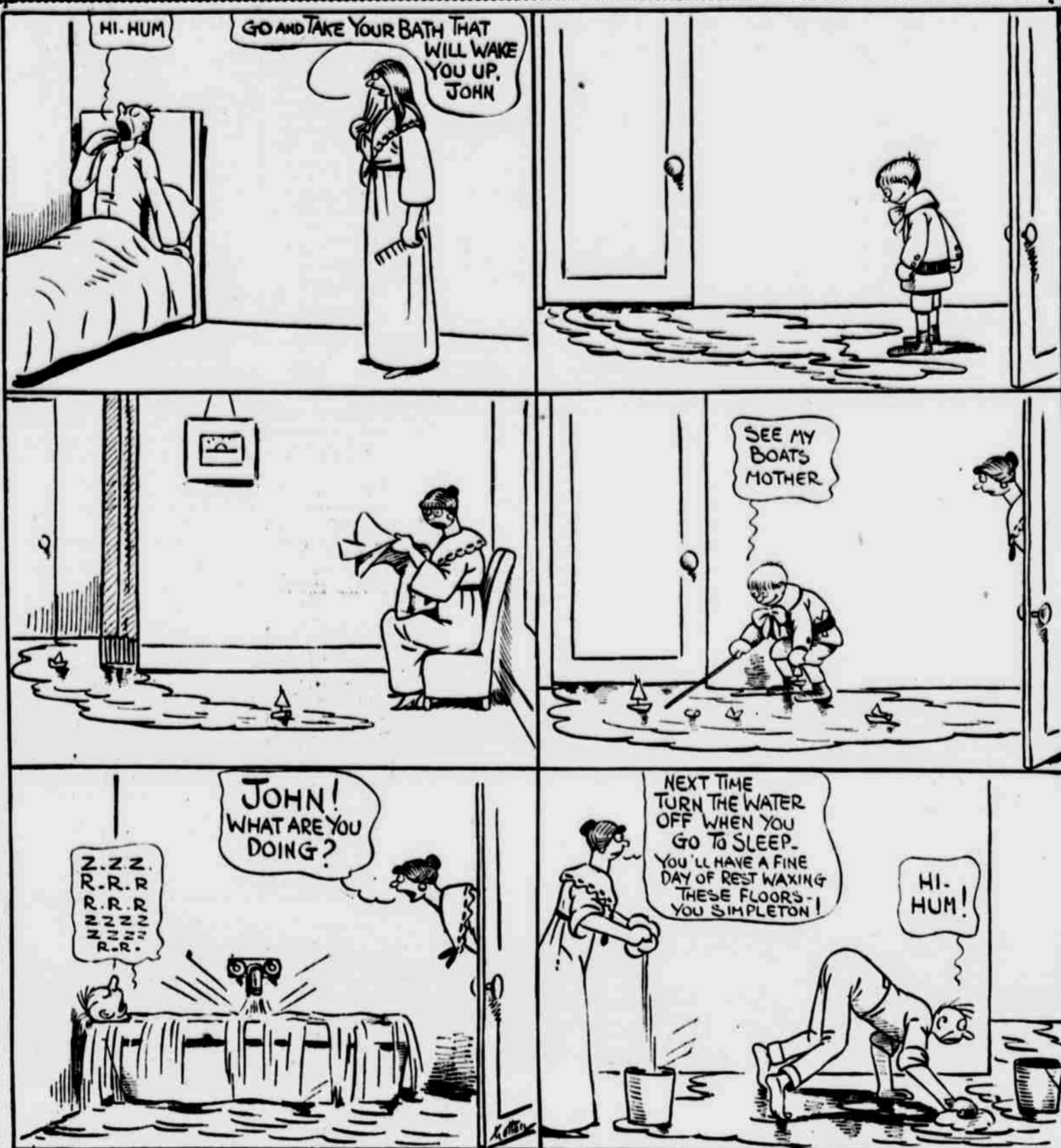
Laments Racing's Return.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
So racing is to be restored in New York State? I am sorry, for it is a bad sign. In no other State of America has such a sweeping reform, once achieved, ever been repealed. The other States that were decent enough to abolish racetrack gambling have never been forced or tricked or bullied into restoring it. No one objects to racing, but decent people object to licensed gambling. This restoration of racetrack gambling is a boon to crooks, strong-arm men, loafers, men who are too tricky

to work, etc. It is a curse to wives and mothers, a temptation to poor young men and a trap to those who are easily tempted to steal. It is also a black smudge across the fair fame of the Empire State. Is it too late for the recent element of the community to prevent such a disgrace? How about this, readers?
HONESTY.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
As to the grazing cow and barn problem it is necessary to know size and shape of barn. If the barn is 100 feet or more in length and breadth and is square the area would be three-quarters of a circle with a radius of 100 feet or a diameter of 200 feet and is ascertained as follows:
3.1416 x 100 x 100 = 31,416 square feet. If barn is less than 100 feet on either side then length and breadth must be known. If the barn is not square at the corners a very different question is involved.
Hiram B. Ely,
Rutherford, N. J.

The Day of Rest

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By Maurice Ketten



The Jarr Family



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POOR Mr. Jarr's Brain Fever Is Temporarily Checked by \$20

"Show him in!" referred to Mr. Jarr's employer.
"But, my dear," said Mrs. Jarr, "I can tell Mr. Smith you are too ill to see anyone. In fact, I told him just now that there was a consultation being held over you by the doctors."
"Show him in," said Mrs. Jarr, "I am now overworking and underpaying the brightest mind in the wholesale woolen trade has caused the greatest expert on Austrian felt to totter in the upper story." So saying Mr. Jarr tapped his forehead significantly.
"We have to humor him, you know," said Mrs. Jarr.

MRS. JARR came into the front room, where her husband, the sturdiest valetudinarian in Harlem, who had recently been threatened—but not very savagely—with brain fever, was playing auction pinochle with Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Rangle. Mr. Slavinsky had dropped out of the game, though still sticking around.

Mrs. Jarr hurried over to the table and began to gather up the chips and cards. "Stop playing cards! Play the piano, or something!" she cried huskily. "It's Mr. Smith!"

"The boss?" asked Mr. Jarr.
"Oh, Oh!" cried Mr. Slavinsky. "I tell you what, kick out a winner! I got my pocket rule with me and I'll be measuring for a pane of glass for it, and Rafferty and Rangle they can be neighbors who has to come in to hold him when his brains is feverish—Mr. Charley's brains I mean!"

"Nix!" replied Mr. Jarr sternly. "I am an invalid. I must be humored. I can't be crossed. On with the game. I would have won last hand anyway. So here's two dollars worth of chips again for each of you! Show him in!" The remarks about the high cost of pinochle checks were directed to Mr. Rangle and Mr. Rafferty. The command

to work, etc. It is a curse to wives and mothers, a temptation to poor young men and a trap to those who are easily tempted to steal. It is also a black smudge across the fair fame of the Empire State. Is it too late for the recent element of the community to prevent such a disgrace? How about this, readers?
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When Folk Meet Under An Unfavorable Star

By Sophie Irene Loeb

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STEVENSON says, "Many lovable people miss each other in the world or meet under some unfavorable star. There is the nice and critical moment of declaration to be got over. From timidity or lack of opportunity a good half of possible love cases never get so far, and at least another quarter do there cease and determine. A very adroit person, to be sure, manages to prepare the way and out with his declaration in the nick of time."

"And then there is a fine, solid sort of man who goes on from snub to snub, and if he had to declare forty times the will continue impudently declaring until the astonished consideration of men and angels until he has a favorable answer. I dare say if one were a woman one would like to marry a man who was capable of doing this, but not quite one who had done so."

"It is just a little bit abject and somehow just a little bit gross, and truth is that many times though he may have met Miss Right, yet with his bachelor-like propensities, he has not met her even half way."

So it goes on until one day sitting at a table, a man and a woman meet. A trivial happening may mar the possibilities of a wider acquaintance and a still happier result. And many a lonely bachelor rushing through life on his own power might instead of he would instead, like the engine, "stop, look and listen" and a power that would help him along less lonely tracks and happier ties.

Little Snob—I don't see any waiters. Why don't they wear uniforms? You can't tell who are gentlemen and who are not can you?
Superior Waiter (sarcastically)—London waiters had no difficulty, sir—London Opinion.

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Marriage Customs in Many Countries

By Madison C. Peters.

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MARRIAGE is highly honored among the Turks. Mohammed said: "When the servant of Allah marries he perfects half of his religion." The bachelor is looked upon as the brother of the devil. A widow almost always marries again. An old maid is taboo—she is considered as living in perpetual transgression. Hence the Turks marry early. Among them there is only one excuse for a marriage late in life—a second marriage.

According to law, a man may have four wives, but each wife must be maintained in separate quarters, and the matter of expense governs the prevailing sentiment favoring one wife.

The Turkish woman is a free agent under the law. The wife has absolute control of her property. A man may divorce his wife by uttering in her presence and in that of two witnesses a certain form of words three times. And the wife has no remedy. This is a custom which has the force of law. But divorce is unpopular.

When the family council concludes that the time has arrived for the son to marry, the mother, if she has not already done so, chooses a wife for him. She gets into communication with the old women matrimonial brokers who are familiar with the families having marriageable daughters. Accompanied by these go-betweens and near relatives, the mother visits such families.

No matter what may be the private opinion of the match-makers, etiquette requires them to explain "What a beauty your daughter is! The chief caller, however, is generally given a chair to sit on while the bride and groom are being settled. Several houses are so visited, and then the mother goes home to report to her husband and son.

The choice determined on, the go-betweens arrange the preliminaries. The youth may not see the maiden unveiled. Veils in the East are attributed not so much to the jealousy of the husbands as to the modesty of the women. Turks regard talking freely of women as an evidence of ill-breeding.

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The betrothal gifts are usually toilet requisites. After this the bridegroom's mother visits the bride, taking with her bonbons and several yards of red silk, which is laid on the floor in front of the divan. Standing on this silk, the betrothed kisses the hand of her mother-in-law, who gives her bon-bons, with her blessing. Half a bon-bon, eaten in two by the girl, the mother carries back to the bridegroom as a first love-token.

A few days later the bridegroom sends a contribution to the bride's father toward the expenses of the wedding festivities. Eight days after the engagement is made the knot is tied, a civil contract, made valid by two witnesses.

The ceremony takes place in the bride's home. When the settlement has been agreed upon the bridegroom proclaims three times his desire to wed the daughter; whereupon the priest, accompanied by the father, goes to the bride's apartment, where she and her maid are waiting, and after stating the financial agreement, she is asked her willingness to marry this man. If she answers affirmatively the father and the priest return to the men's apartment, and when the contract is signed, sealed and delivered the contracting parties are legally man and wife.

But before the young couple may see each other this legal sanction must have the social sanction. Some months may pass before this can take place. The wedding dress for the festivities has to be made first, and other accessories, which the bridegroom has to furnish. The rest of her trousseau, her household linen, beds and utensils for house-keeping must be provided by the bride's parents. To provide the money sometimes requires months. It is a point both of honor and pride to make as big a show as possible, which immemorial custom makes obligatory, upon rich and poor alike.

Wedding festivities last a week. On Monday the bride's trousseau and pen- sionings are carried to her new home. Tuesday the bride is taken to the public bath. On Wednesday the bridegroom pays for the bath for the partners, which the bridegroom has to furnish. The rest of her trousseau, her household linen, beds and utensils for house-keeping must be provided by the bride's parents. To provide the money sometimes requires months. It is a point both of honor and pride to make as big a show as possible, which immemorial custom makes obligatory, upon rich and poor alike.

On Wednesday comes the visit of the bridegroom's mother and the dying of the bride's finger and toe nails. On Thursday the bride and her relatives proceed in a body, with great escort, to the home of the bridegroom. After all are seated, coffee served and cigarettes passed around the bride enters, still wearing the borrowed garments she put on after the bath on Tuesday, and, supported on either side by a matron who has been only once married, makes a tour of the room. Beginning with her mother-in-law, she kisses the hands of all. Then she is seated alongside of her mother-in-law. The latter transfers a sugar stick from her mouth to that of her daughter-in-law, a survival of the old marriage rite of food sharing.

The small coins showered on the bride are scrambled for by the beggars and hangers-on, always on hand during the progress of a wedding festivity. The bridegroom is pounced severely by his friends and an abundant supply of old shoes is thrown at him with no gentle hand. He is glad to make his escape to the room where the bride now receives him in her wedding gown and kisses his hand, while her veil is spread on the floor, on which he kneels to pray.

For the two succeeding days the newly wedded pair, in their best clothes, receive the congratulations of relatives and friends who flock to the house.

A Handful of Interesting Facts

(From The World Almanac.)

The battleship Wyoming, which with the Arkansas is the greatest Dreadnought in the United States navy, holds the world's battleship speed record.

More fatalities occurred in 1902 from Fourth of July accidents than in any year on record. In that year 466 persons were killed and 3,293 were wounded. In the following year 182 persons were killed. In 1912 the fatalities numbered only 12. During the last ten years 1,740 lives were lost through Independence Day accidents.

The cost of maintaining the United States Navy is estimated at \$2,345,890,000. The Harlem River Ship Canal connecting the Hudson River and Long Island Sound by way of Spuyten Duyvil Creek cost about \$2,700,000. It was opened for traffic June 17, 1895.

It costs from 70 cents to \$1.45 a word to send a cable message from New York to Brazil.

There are 6,999 Building and Loan Associations in the United States with a total membership of 2,332,829, and total assets amounting to \$1,030,687,031.

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